

IOWA BOARD OF NURSING

In RE: Petition for)	Declaratory Ruling No. 92
Declaratory Ruling Filed By:)	
Barb Van Gorp, RN)	RN Suturing a PICC in Place
Joan Vande Krol, RN)	
February 3, 1997)	

A petition for declaratory ruling was filed with the Iowa Board of Nursing by Barb Van Gorp, R.N., Education Department Coordinator and Joan Vande Krol, R.N., Med/Surg, ICU, ED Department Nurse Manager, Pella Community Hospital, Pella, Iowa, on February 3, 1997

The Board is authorized to issue declaratory rulings "as to the applicability of any statutory provision, rule, or other written statement of law or policy, decision, or order of the agency" pursuant to 1997 Iowa Code § 17A.9. See also 655 IAC 9.

The question presented by the petitioners is as follows:

Is it within the scope of practice for a registered nurse to affix a peripherally inserted central catheter by means of a suture?

Facts leading to this question are as follows:

The Iowa Board of Nursing considers placement of the peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC) to be within the scope of practice of registered nurses who have had additional education to prepare them to perform this procedure. Declaratory ruling number 25, RN Inserting Intrasil Catheters was issued in May of 1988. Subsequently, declaratory ruling number 51 Insertion and Maintenance of Percutaneous Intravenous Central Catheters was

issued in December 1990. On March 6, 1990, declaratory ruling number 51 was rescinded and replaced by declaratory ruling number 53. In the two subsequent rulings, the board stipulated that the registered nurse who inserts a PICC adheres to the standards established by the Intravenous Nurses Association as published in the Journal of Intravenous Nursing Supplement 1990, and may be amended in the future. The board also established applicable limitations.

During the past few years, the use of peripherally inserted central catheters (PICC) has proliferated. It has become common practice for registered nurses in Iowa, as well as other states, who have appropriate education and experience, to insert PICCs. Many types of PICC lines can be anchored by a suture to stabilize the catheter and prevent inadvertent removal of the catheter. Some catheters have flexible suture wings which can be added or removed. In the previous rulings, the issue regarding securing the wings with sutures was not addressed.

Although the board has not addressed the issue regarding securing a PICC with sutures, the board previously determined that it is within the scope of practice of a registered nurse to replace an anchoring suture on a central line. This action was approved in declaratory ruling number 75. The procedure of anchoring a PICC line by means of suture is almost identical to replacing the anchoring suture on a central line utilized for dialysis. In both instances, the anchoring suture is a stitch which has been placed through the stabilizing flaps into the

subcutaneous tissue to maintain integrity of the access. In many other states, registered nurses are allowed to suture a PICC in place.

Rationale:

Given the factors above, the Iowa Board of Nursing finds it to be within the scope of practice of the registered nurse, who is qualified through additional education and practice, to insert a PICC to anchor a PICC with suture, provided:

1. There is a physician's order for a PICC.
2. There is radiographic confirmation that the catheter is properly placed.
3. The registered nurse has completed an appropriate education program including theory and psychomotor techniques.
4. The competency of the registered nurse is verified and documentation is contained in the personnel file of the registered nurse.
5. The institution has a written policy and a detailed procedure identifying that it is acceptable practice in the facility.

Nancy E. Knutstrom

Nancy E. Knutstrom, R.N., M.S., Ed.
Chairperson
Iowa Board of Nursing

March 6, 1997
Date

Lorinda K. Inman

Lorinda K. Inman, R.N., M.S.N.
Executive Director
Iowa Board of Nursing

March 6, 1997
Date